

**WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB**  
**On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Don Cooper, Terry Gibson, Judy Heal, Colin Sayer, Kelly Thrower, John Woodford, Margaret Woodford

**APOLOGIES:** David Bancalari, Stuart Grant, Keith Morgan, Joe Trattle

**MEETING OPENED:** 20.10

**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

*Item 2.2.10.4*

*Association Merchandise*

Lorraine advised that two orders for sweat/polo shirts had been paid for and distributed. Two invoices from Printapoint totalling £262.50, which Lorraine had paid, were passed to Chris together with cash and cheques totalling £301.00 in respect of sales to members.

*Item 9.1 Apiary Tour, 11<sup>th</sup> July*

Penny reported that whilst enjoyable, the event had been poorly attended. John advised that Keith had not found any disease at the apiaries visited. Jill commented that issues surrounding organisation of the event might have been a factor and that more advance planning be borne in mind when arranging future apiary tours.

*Item 9.2 Abbey farm Open Day, 12<sup>th</sup> July*

Terry reported that overall the day had been successful. There was a good deal of interest from the general public about bees and beekeeping. Volunteers had provided a small amount of honey for sale, resulting in a donation to the Association of £21. Everyone reported having enjoyed the day and Edward Cross had invited us to attend the event in 2010.

*Item 9.3 Holkham Country Fair, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July*

Jill reported that this too had been a successful event. Once again a good deal of interest had been shown in the craft and issues surrounding beekeeping. Candle rolling had been a popular activity. This together with honey sales had resulted in a profit of £273.65. Penny suggested that as the marquee used had been loaned by the Guides, that a donation be considered. John Woodford proposed £25. Penny Snell seconded. Unanimous agreement.

*Item 9.4 Sandringham Flower Show*

Report deferred to item: Annual Honey Show.

*Item 9.5 Norfolk Smallholder's Show, 2<sup>nd</sup> August*

Jill reported on another busy and successful day. The demonstration hive, in particular, generated a lot of attention from both children and adults taking the opportunity to don protective gear and look in the hive. Sales of honey and the ever popular candle rolling had resulted in an estimated profit of £250. Furthermore the stand had been awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize by the National Trust for the best looking stall. Penny asked the committee whether the Association should be represented in 2010. The cost would be £20. Terry seconded the suggestion. There was unanimous agreement. Penny and Chris would take care of the

booking. Jill thanked all those that had helped to man the stand and make the day a success.

#### *Future Events Ring Round*

Given that Joe was on holiday, Jill proposed to speak to him on his return and ask him to e-mail committee members with their respective lists in time for them to be able to contact members prior to 23<sup>rd</sup> August event.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE:**

3.1 Copies of all correspondence forwarded to committee members.

3.2 As had been agreed at committee meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> July, a letter had been sent to Ann Carter requesting that she provide a draft Annual Licence Agreement for our consideration. No response had been received to date. The committee agreed that it was not necessary to follow up at this stage.

3.3 A letter of congratulations had been sent to Keith Morgan on his recent appointment.

3.4 An e-mail from Rutland Beekeeper's Association, soliciting support for their proposed application for affiliation to the British Beekeeper's Association, had been received. After consideration the committee agreed that before pledging support Lorraine request additional information about the Association.

3.5 David Bancalari had advised that he would be standing down from the roles of Webmaster, Bee Aware editor/publisher and BeeCraft Group Scheme Co-ordinator. Jill asked the committee for any thoughts or suggestion on the matter. The only comment was from Terry who advised that he had circulated the new members asking if anyone would be interested in being the Webmaster, but had not received any responses. Jill advised that she had also made enquiries and had identified a willing volunteer, but if there were no objections, would like to discuss further during the Chairman's Report. No objections raised.

### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Jill opened by saying that, after what had been a very busy season since coming into office at the AGM, she felt the time was right to look back over what had happened so far and what needed to be considered for the future.

In the first place there had been the scheduled events/demos which in general had been well attended. In addition Beginners and Basic Exam Courses had been held which had also received a high level of attendance. More recently the Association had staged a presence at a number of the county's shows with the focus being on imparting knowledge about bees/beekeeping.

Jill ventured the opinion that high profile media coverage on the plight of honeybees had raised awareness of the craft with one result being that membership had increased to record levels and felt strongly that this membership be sustained. At the same she acknowledged that with a surge of interest of this nature there was always a risk of an imbalance in the ratio between new beekeepers and those with more experience who would be prepared to assist and provide necessary support, hence the suggestion at the last meeting to close membership until Jan 2010. Obviously there was no reason why a list of potential beekeepers could not be maintained and included on the newsletter mailing list in order that their interest be sustained.

Jill asserted the importance of good communication. David Bancalari had made a significant contribution to the delivery of good communications and his departure from the related functions would present a challenge in the short term until people came forward to fill the roles. However, Jill was confident that the proposed new ring round system could have advantages in that not only would the onus not be on one person, but that with each committee member having a few members with whom they would be in periodic contact, there was hope that

the committee member would be a first point of contact for the provision of guidance and support. Clearly the system would need to be reviewed after 2-3 months and any problems/changes discussed.

With regards to the role of Webmaster Stefan Keymer had expressed a willingness to take on this function provided that the committee were in agreement. At this point discussion ensued regarding ownership, operation and further development of the website. The outcome was that initially Stefan would work with the existing website, currently owned and financed by David, but ultimately the objective would be for the website to be owned and funded entirely by the Association. Jill Tinsey proposed Stefan's nomination. Penny Snell seconded. Unanimous agreement. In addition the committee agreed as one that Stefan be co-opted onto the committee forthwith.

Jill re-iterated the importance of a newsletter as a communication aid and invited the committee to comment on or volunteer for the role of Bee Aware editor/publisher. There were no volunteers, but Judy enquired as to what the task entailed. Following a lively discussion the following points were established:

- newsletter should follow a basic structure to be decided at committee level
- primary focus to be education/events/useful tips and information
- all members to continue to be invited to submit articles/photos
- to be proof read by committee members
- membership secretary to distribute e-mail copies. Editor/publisher to take care of postal copies
- postal copies to be sent out 1<sup>st</sup> class on the same day as e-mail copies circulated

One area of concern highlighted was the cost and effort involved in printing in colour, however, this was not perceived to be insurmountable. As there were no volunteers Jill suggested that the subject be tabled for discussion at the next committee meeting to give everyone time to consider the matter further.

Brian enquired as to what was to be done to remind the membership about impending events. Jill suggested that this be done by e-mail and asked Lorraine to compile one and send to Joe for circulation. A copy was to be posted to those who did not receive e-mail communications. Lorraine to request the relevant details from Joe. Penny asked whether members should be solicited to consider the newsletter editor role in the same e-mail and all were in agreement.

Jill then moved onto the matter of the BeeCraft group scheme co-ordinator. Following discussion, again on what was involved, Jill said that she would contact the BeeCraft secretary to establish requirements. Subject to be tabled for next meeting.

On a final note regarding Association business, Jill requested that in an attempt to ensure openness and transparency, that any relevant correspondence be circulated amongst all committee members.

In closing her report Jill thanked the committee for their support and hard work and asked Lorraine to write a formal letter of appreciation to David Bancalari.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Chris circulated a copy of the income/expenditure report for July/Aug. In summary this had been a very busy month that focussed on the Sandringham Show. The total takings on the day were £2570.25, with the Honey Stand selling 260lbs of honey resulting in takings of £1361.00, of which £668.40 was income for members selling on the stall. The Association Apiary honey generated £508.50 in funds. Candle rolling produced £83 in income. The cake stand made £185.60 and on the day the raffle generated £843. The final accounts for the

raffle showed a total profit of £1030.30. The Sandringham Show ran at a profit of £242.10.

Jill asserted that much of the credit for the health of show finances could be attributed to John and David's organisation of the raffle. John commented that half of the tickets sent out to members had not been returned and wondered whether the system be reviewed for 2010. The general feeling was that a fifty percent returns rate could actually be regarded as a great success and this method should be used in future years.

Chris drew attention to the fact that income to date was £8822, commenting that this had implications for the intended application for charity status. Figures would need to be reviewed and the subject tabled for further discussion.

Current account balance as at 4<sup>th</sup> August £2694.48.

## **6. ANNUAL HONEY SHOW:**

Jill commended Margaret on her execution of the role as Show Exhibit Secretary and expressed her heartfelt appreciation. Aside from a couple of minor problems, Margaret said that her only frustration was the preparation of the press report. Despite this, Margaret had provided it to the Lynn News within the timescale, only to be disappointed that an extremely abbreviated version had been published.

Jill reported that there had been an increase in the number of entries this year, being 155 as compared to 101 in 2008, with a reasonable number of entries in the two Novice classes. Whilst this could have been partly due to exhibitors having more honey available this year, Jill felt that receiving schedules by mail might also have encouraged more members to enter the show and that the same method be repeated next year. Jill would organise inscriptions of cups and shields. Volunteers had been kept busy all day by the constant stream of people not only visiting the sales stands, but also being interested in bees/beekeeping.

The subject of the allocation of complimentary passes was raised. Jill advised that the Association had been given 13 passes. There were 32 volunteers. Jill explained her rationale for the way in which the tickets had been given out and offered to provide details of the recipients. The general consensus was that this was unnecessary. Jill then invited suggestions from the committee for ways in which so few tickets could be more fairly allocated. She also advised that negotiations for the 2010 show were currently taking place and that there was a slight possibility that a few extra passes could be forthcoming, but that this was by no means a certainty. Jill ventured that it was her understanding that one possible way that volunteers could be granted free entry to the show was to enter one of the Flower Show classes and that this route be explored further.

Margaret to send letters of appreciation to Paul Metcalf and Pat Marshall the two judges.

Terry asked whether Mr & Mrs Skerritt had visited the marquee. Jill and John said that they had not been aware that they had been present. Colin confirmed that an invitation and tickets had been sent.

Judy asked whether in the future the information post could be more visibly located. After discussion there was a general consensus that, as space was limited, the main focus of the show was the exhibition of honey and the system that had been in operation this year had worked relatively well, there were really no other options.

Jill asked Margaret if she would be prepared to take on the role again in 2010. Margaret said that she would, with the proviso that the press report need not be computer generated. Jill confirmed that handwritten would be fine.

Lorraine informed that Rachel Cooper had donated her unsold items of knitted bags and jewellery to the Association to be raffled or sold as deemed appropriate. Terry advised that a number of photographs taken by Maggie Rickards and David Bancalari would soon be made available.

Jill asked for thanks to be recorded to all volunteers as their support had contributed in making the day a great success.

**7. BEE INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

In the absence of Keith, there was no report.

**8. ASSOCIATION APIARY:**

*Blackborough End*

Brian reported that the 10 hives and 2 nuc's were all queen right. There remained a small amount of honey to be taken off and extracted. There had been two open apiary sessions during July. At the most recent on July 26<sup>th</sup> there had been a problem which resulted in the duty beekeeper and visitors being stung. Brian had discussed the incident with the duty beekeeper, but no clear reason as to why the bees became aggressive could be established. Terry advised that on the following day he had spoken to one of the visitors who had received a number of stings. Although at the time the man was quite philosophical about his experience, he suggested that we should consider always having two people on duty in case a situation of this nature occurred again. Various suggestions as to how best to operate open apiary sessions were muted, but eventually it was agreed that the matter should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Education Sub Committee.

*Flitcham*

Terry advised that both hives were now queen right, but that the bees were starting to consume what little capped stores they had.

**9. FUTURE EVENTS:**

9.1 **Sun 16<sup>th</sup> August, midday – Bees on Heather.** Meet at the Devonshire Arms, Baslow. Jill to check with Keith re the arrangements and let Lorraine know so that this can be included in the reminder e-mail.

9.2 **Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 13.30 – 16.00 – Checking for Nosema.** Members who needed guidance on how to collect a sample of bees for testing to meet at Blackborough End at 13.30 for instruction then transfer to Tottenhill Village Hall where those bees together with those brought by other members would be prepared and tested. Jill and Don to bring their microscopes. Lorraine and Joan to provide refreshments.

9.3 **Sun 6<sup>th</sup> September, 14.30 – 16.30'ish – Preparing for Winter, Blackborough End Training Apiary.** Demonstration on how to prepare colonies for winter followed by a group discussion. Event to be organised by Brian. Tea and coffee to be provided by Joan.

9.4 **Sat 19<sup>th</sup> September, 14.30 Prize Giving and Social Event, at the home of Margaret & John Woodford, 1 Grantly Court, King's Lynn.** Details to be finalised.

9.5 **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 – 16.00 – Apple Day, North Creake Abbey.** Committee agreed to accept invitation for Association to have a stand at this event. Organiser keen for Association honey to be sold. Event to be organised by Jill and Penny.

9.6 **Sun 18<sup>th</sup> October, 12.00 -16.00, Green Quay Luncheon.** Terry advised that his attempts to secure a speaker on the effects of bee stings had been unsuccessful and asked for suggestions from the committee. Jill suggested that Terry ask the woman who had been a commercial beekeeper in Africa to come and give the talk and that Lorraine ask Mike Dennis if people not wanting the meal would be allowed to come and listen to the speaker. There was discussion as to what price to charge for the event. Agreement reached that this should be £15.00 per head.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

*10.1 Courses for 2010*

Terry advised the committee that to date over 60 people had registered an interest in the 2010 Introductory Course and asked the committee if they thought this amount of people could be effectively dealt with. Lively discussion ensued with many suggestions being aired. In the end the committee agreed that this should be discussed further and decided upon by the Education Sub Committee.

**MEETING CLOSED: 22.40**

**Next meeting is on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club**

Signed.....Dated.....